Headteacher NewsLetter

December 18th 2025- Issue 3



What a wonderful start to the academic year we have had, full of learning, fun and experiences!
Our new curriculum is in full swing and weekly pupil voice sessions are positive- children have let me know that they are enjoying their learning and that they are remembering more.
Hopefully you have had time to read our 'behaviour and relationships' policy. This policy has been written in collaboration with clinical psychologists and the focus is on children developing autonomy, knowing right from wrong and knowing how to make things better if there is a problem. We are focused on building positive citizens of the future who can think for themselves and remain safe.
Our school rules 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' help us to ensure that we are:
Ready to learn, carry out instructions and listen.
Respectful to our community so that we can all thrive.
Safe in school so that everyone feels emotional and physical safety.
Our School Council have been very proactive this term. With the support of Mrs Edwards they have collected donations for the foodbank, been gaining the voice of their peers to support in re-writing our antibullying policy and also won 'Best School Entry' of the Milnrow and Newhey Scarecrow festival! :)
Our children have enjoyed decorating our 'Compassion Christmas Tree' that you may have seen in the foyer. Reading their wishes for others is truly heartwarming and demonstrates their ability to think of others.

The Nest

As you know from my last newsletter, we were delighted to secure funding for a hut in our forest school area. Our hut is now here and is called 'The Nest'. This will be used as a sensory space for our children who need an adapted offer for the start of the school day and will also be well used for forest school provision.
We can't wait to get the space up and running properly and look forward to sharing updates with you.

Inclusive Attendance

We are committed to fostering child-centred actions and collective responsibility for attendance as an 'Inclusive Attendance' school. Please do let us know if you are struggling to get your child into school each day. We can work with you to set up a plan of support- we are here to help!
Please refer to our Attendance Policy that shares our passion for supporting families to enable their child to attend school everyday. Please remember that attending school is a legal requirement and we have a duty to adhere to regulations. Sometimes home visits are carried out, these are welfare checks and are part of our duty of care to ensure that children are safe.
I know that it has been challenging at times to manage to sustain consistent attendance this term- we have had chicken pox and flu galore to deal with and this is very challenging as a parent. Thank you so much to those families that have kept in touch with us throughout.
We are currently reviewing our generic attendance letters in the hope that they feel more empathetic to the needs of our community.
We recognise that some children find attending school tricky and that this causes immense strain upon the family unit. Please do reach out to us if you find yourself in this situation so that we can problem solve together and hopefully improve the situation for everyone.
Our door is always open, please phone or pop into the office- they will direct you to someone who can help.

Christmas at Crossgates has been a wonderful experience. Welcoming the Salvation Army to our Community Choir events felt very magical and gave a nostalgic feel to the festivities; thank you to everyone who came.

Our young performers in Reception and Finches certainly excelled on the stage and I hope that you enjoyed the plays. The year groups who have not yet performed will do so before the end of the academic year, please refer to the Spring Dates list for information.

There will be a lockdown procedure practised before the end of the spring term to prepare our children in case of an event where they need to be safe within the school building. I will inform you before and after the event and can assure you that this will be delivered in an age-appropriate manner. This procedure will be practised annually and we will review our policies and practice as a result so that we can keep our community safe.

Hopefully you have received the letter from myself updating you regarding securing our perimeter; this has been a labour of love over the past year but I am hopeful we will have adequate fencing around school very soon!

I would like to form a 'Parent Council' group within our school community. This group will be instrumental in enabling parents to put forward their views to senior leaders and the governing board. If you would be interested in this role, please contact me for further information. I am very passionate about appropriate, open communication and recognise that we are certainly stronger and can achieve more for our children, when we work together.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the past year. As I enter my second year at Crossgates (where does the time go?)I would like to take a moment to reflect upon my first year as Headteacher of our wonderful school. Taking on headship at a new school is both a priviledge and a huge responsibility. Over the past year, my priority has been to get to know the children, staff, families and the wider community; I have certainly learnt that Crossgates has something special! I have been struck by the kindness, resilience and enthusiasm of our pupils, who continue to be a joy to see learning, growing and supporting one another each day.

As a community, we have begun to build upon strong foundations. We have focused on maintaining high expectations for learning and behaviour, developing our inclusion offer and ensuring that our curriculum meets the needs of all children.

I am grateful for the trust that you place in myself and the Crossgates team daily by sending your child to our school and for the many ways in which you support school life- whether that be through conversations at the school gate, attending events, supporting learning at home, or by sharing feedback. Your involvement makes a real difference.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what we can achieve together. My vision is for our school to continue to be a place where our children are happy, confident learners; where staff feel supported and valued and where families feel welcomed and listened to. Working in partnership will remain at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you again for your support during my first year of headship. I am beyond proud to lead this school and look forward to continuing our journey together.

Fundraising

Thanks to the generosity of our community, £150.55 has been raised for Springhill Hospice from our Christmas Jumper Day. The hospice is incredibly grateful for your support and our School Council are working towards forming a Springhill Ambassadors group at Crossgates.

Families and Friends of Crossgates (PTA) hosted their first event in October, a Halloween disco. This raised £1703.12 for the school, which we are immensely grateful for. If you would like to join our PTA, please contact the office and we will pass your details onto the team.

All money that we raise for school is going towards developing therapeutic environments and extending our outdoor offer. We will keep you up to date with our progress and are so incredibly thankful for any donations we receive. The financial climate within education is incredibly challenging at the moment but we are committed to making a positive difference to each and every one of our children.

Parking

Parking continues to be a significant issue around school. Please ensure that you drive off promptly when dropping off or collecting your child so that there is room for others to do the same.

Conduct

I am so thankful for the positive relationships that we have forged with our community; we work hard to have an open door policy for our families.

I kindly remind everyone to model positive and respectful behaviour whilst on school grounds. Please speak courteously to staff, pupils and other families and ensure that all interactions support a safe and welcoming environment for our children. Thank you for your support.

With my thanks for your support this year, I wish you and your children a very happy Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you all back in school on January 5th

Mrs Mitchell 🙂